

From: Erik Luther
To: 'microsoft.atr(a)usdoj.gov'
Date: 12/6/01 4:48pm
Subject: Microsoft Antitrust Settlement

To Whom It May Concern:

This settlement is the worst possible outcome for consumers. I must admit I don't know all the particulars of the settlement but on its face, it sounds like you have performed Microsoft a service. My understanding is that Microsoft was found guilty of violating anti-trust laws. The punishment is for them to spread the Microsoft operating system and software into new markets, i.e., low income school systems. MS will not change its practices and stands to gain tremendous rewards on this deal. I hear the 'free' software is a limited time offer. Five years to be exact.

This is not even a slap on the wrist! This is a manicure!

Every poor soul who starts using MS software will be enslaved to endless and useless upgrades. (Useless is a bit harsh; however, I find that most of the upgrades provide little in the way of features and alot in the way of bugs.) You have no choice but to accept these upgrades if you want to communicate with others using MS products. Backwards compatibility is a joke to MS. Even different versions of Office 97 can have difficulty reading files. MS seems to change file formats endlessly, making older systems obsolete. I have personal experience with this in cases of Word, Powerpoint and Access.

Erik Luther